

**REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 19 has been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending and under consideration.

**OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

In the Office Action at page 2, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In view of the accompanying separate Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings, corrections to FIG. 1 has been requested. In addition, the specification has been amended to include the reference labels 470 and 480 shown in FIGs 4B and 4C, the support for which is discussed below. In addition, the specification has been amended to replace the item mistakenly labeled 432, with 450 as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the amended drawings and specification, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the drawings are respectfully requested. Corrected formal drawings shall be filed upon issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

**CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification has been reviewed in response to this Office Action. Changes have been made to the specification only to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance. Support for the terms "upper adjacent screen boundary" and "lower adjacent screen boundary" lies in the priority document filed on January 8, 1999, which discusses a selection bar 460 moving from a "screen boundary" to adjacent channels. The adjacent screen boundaries are shown in FIGs. 4B and 4C as 470 and 480. No new matter has been added.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:**

In the Office Action at page 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, 19-23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Yuen (U.S. Patent No. 5,659,367). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing a method of “acquiring the program guide information for each channel by scanning accessible channels while a received program is not displayed.” While Yuen discloses acquiring program guide information either continuously or when the TV is tuned off, Yuen does not disclose sensing whether a received program is displayed or not. Col. 21, lines 39-41, Col. 22, lines 33-49. In addition, Yuen does not disclose relating the display of a received program to the acquisition of program guide information. FIG. 22A, line 901, Col. 22, lines 47-49, Col. 21, lines 29-41. Instead, Yuen discloses receiving program guide information merely because the it is “time for accessing the guide,” without regard for whether the received program is not displayed. FIG. 22A, Step 906, Col. 22, lines 41-49. The benefit of acquiring program guide information while a displayed program is not displayed is that it updates the program guide information when the viewer most needs it: while accessing a program list. The method in Yuen simply acquires the program guide information either continuously, or at preset times, but not when it is most needed. As such, in contrast to the Examiner’s assertion, Yuen does not disclose a device that acquires “the program guide information for each channel by scanning accessible channels *while a received program is not displayed*” as recited in claim 1.

Claim 2 is deemed patentable due at least to the above argument for the patentability of claim 1.

In rejecting claim 3, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing a “program guiding method in which a program list for channels is displayed in response to a program guide command” which includes, among other steps, the steps of “acquiring program guide information of accessible channels” and “storing the acquired program guide information.” As similarly noted above in the discussion of claim 1, Yuen discloses the acquisition of program guide information

based upon whether it was “time for accessing the guide.” FIG. 22A, Step 906, Col. 22, lines 41-49. This program guide information is stored when received in RAM. Col. 21, lines 65-67 - Col. 22, lines 1-3. When the device in Yuen displays the program list in response to a program guide command, the program list displays the program guide information stored in RAM, which is necessarily the program guide information acquired at the last “time for accessing the guide.” As such, when the program guide command is given in Yuen, the device does not acquire the program guide information, and then store this program guide information in RAM, but instead merely displays the program guide information previously stored in RAM. Col. 21, lines 65-67 - Col. 22, lines 1-3. The benefit of acquiring and storing program guide information in response to a program guide command is that the user received updated program guide information when the program list is accessed, without having to acquire program guide information continuously. Thus, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, the method disclosed in Yuen is not a “program guiding method in which a program list for channels is displayed in *response* to a program guide command” that includes the steps of “acquiring program guide information” and “storing the acquired program guide information” as recited in claim 3, but is instead a program guiding method that, in response to a program guide command, merely writes and displays a program list based upon existing program guide information.

In rejecting claim 5, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the program guiding method of claim 3 which further includes a step of “determining whether the program guide information is effective by comparing a current time to an effective period of stored program guide information, and proceeding to the program list writing step when the stored program is effective, before the step of acquiring program guide information.” As noted above in the discussion on claim 3, Yuen discloses a method that relies on a set time for acquiring program guide information. Col. 21, lines 39-43. Yuen does not disclose that there is any comparison as to whether the stored program guide information is effective as compared to “an effective period.” In addition, Yuen does not disclose that the decision as to whether to use existing program guide information or to acquire updated program guide information is based upon this

comparison. Instead, Yuen discloses a method of acquiring program guide information that is dependent on whether the user has input a time period during which the acquisition of program guide information would be convenient. Col. 19, lines 63-67 - Col. 21, lines 1-8. The benefit of the method recited in claim 5 is that program guide information is only acquired if there is a need, which occurs when the program guide information is no longer effective. As such, in addition to the above arguments for the patentability of claim 3 and contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose a further step of “determining whether the program guide information is effective by *comparing a current time to an effective period* of stored program guide information, and proceeding to the program list writing step *when the stored program is effective*, before the step of acquiring program guide information” in response to a program guide command as recited in claim 5.

Claim 6 is deemed patentable due at least to the patentability of claim 3.

In rejecting claim 7, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing a program guiding method where the step of acquiring “comprises the step of determining the sequence of accessing channels by proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” Yuen discloses the acquisition of program guide information, but does not disclose determining the acquisition sequence based upon the “proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” Instead, Yuen discloses acquiring program guide information from all channels, and skipping channels that lack program guide information. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. There is no disclosure of any prioritization or sequencing as to what is acquired, merely the wholesale acquisition without regard to proximity to a tuned channel. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of claim 3 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose a “step of *determining* the sequence of accessing channels *by proximity of channels* to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed” as recited in claim 7.

In rejecting claim 8, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing a method of acquiring program guide information wherein the step of acquiring comprises a “step of determining the order of priority of channels having the same proximity to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed.” As noted above in the discussion on claim 7, Yuen discloses a method of acquiring program guide information that acquires all available program guide information. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. This method is not dependent on proximity to a channel tuned before the program guide command is executed, and is also not dependent upon a “channel up/down input.” As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of claims 3 and 7, and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose the acquisition step comprising “*determining the order of priority of channels having the same proximity to the channel tune before the program guide command is executed according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed*” as recited in claim 8.

Claim 9 is deemed patentable due at least to the patentability of claims 3 and 7 as recited above.

In rejecting claim 10, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the acquiring step as comprising “the step of searching channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” As similarly noted in the discussion on claims 7 and 8, Yuen discloses the acquisition of all available program guide information. There is no disclosure or teaching that this acquisition is related to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed, or even that the acquisition step recognizes the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of claim 3 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose “the step of searching channels upward or downward *from the channel tuned* before the program guide command is executed” as recited in claim 10.

In rejecting claim 12, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing a program guiding method which includes “acquiring program guide information for each channel by searching for accessible channels in a background operation while the program list is referred to,” “storing the acquired program guide information for each channel,” “rewriting a program list on the basis of the stored program guide information,” and “displaying the rewritten program list to a user.” All of these steps are in response to a program guide command. As similarly noted in the discussion on claim 3, Yuen discloses writing and displaying a program list in response to a program guide command, but does not disclose the acquisition and storing of program guide information, or the rewriting and redisplay of a program list based on the updated program guide information in response to a program guide command. Col. 22, lines 1-3. Instead, Yuen discloses acquiring and storing program guide information either continuously, or at preset times. Col. 21, lines 39-41. Yuen does not disclose that the acquisition, storage, rewriting, or redisplay is in response to a program guide command. Therefore, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose a “program guiding method in which a program list for each channel is displayed *in response* to a program guide command” including the steps of “acquiring program guide information for each channel,” “storing the acquired program guide information for each channel,” “rewriting a program list on the basis of the stored program guide information,” and “displaying the rewritten program list to a user” as recited in claim 12.

In rejecting claim 13, the Examiner cited Yuen as further disclosing the acquiring step as comprising “the step of determining a sequence of accessing channels by the proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” As similarly noted in the discussion on claim 7, Yuen does not disclose acquiring information based upon the “proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” Instead, Yuen teaches the acquisition of all available program guide information, regardless of the previously tuned channel. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of claim 12 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose “the step of determining a



sequence of accessing channels *by the proximity* of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed” as recited in claim 13.

In rejecting claim 14, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the acquiring step determining an order of priority of channels having the same proximity to the channel tuned according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed.” As similarly noted in the discussion on claims 7, 8, 10, and 13, Yuen discloses the acquisition of all available program guide information. There is no disclosure or teaching that this acquisition is related to the proximity of a channel to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed, or even that the acquisition step recognizes the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of claim 12 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose the acquisition step comprising a step that “*determines* an order of priority of channels having the same *proximity* to the channel tuned according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed” as recited in claim 14.

Claim 15 is deemed patentable due at least to the arguments for the patentability of claims 12 and 13.

In rejecting claim 19, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing an “apparatus for acquiring program guide information of accessible channels and guiding program guide information acquired in response to a program guide command in a multichannel receiver” that includes “a microprocessor, coupled to the key input unit, to the tuner, and to the memory, and writing a program list based on program guide information stored in the memory in response to the manipulation command input via the key input and searching for accessible channels by controlling the tuner in a background operation while a user refers to the program list.” As amended, claim 19 now requires that the microprocessor search “for accessible channels in response to the manipulation command input via the key input by controlling the tuner in a background operation while a user refers to the program list.” As similarly noted in the

discussion on method claims 3 and 12, Yuen does not disclose an apparatus that utilizes the tuner to detect, acquire, and store program guide information in response to a program guide command. Instead, Yuen discloses a controller that detects, acquires, and stores program guide information either continuously or at preset times, but not in response to the program guide command. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19, as amended, is deemed patentable over Yuen.

In rejecting claim 20, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the microprocessor as determining “the sequence of accessing channels by the proximity between channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” As similarly noted in the above discussions on method claims 7, 8, 10, and 13, Yuen discloses the controller acquiring all available program guide information. There is no disclosure or teaching that the controller acquires the program guide information in relation to the proximity of the channel to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed, or even that the controller recognizes the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of amended claim 19 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose the microprocessor determining “the sequence of accessing channels by the *proximity* between channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed” as recited in claim 20.

In rejecting claim 21, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the microprocessor as determining “the order of priority of channels having the same proximity according to a user's channel up/down command input via the key input before corresponding channels are accessed.” As similarly noted in the discussion on method claim 8, Yuen discloses a controller as controlling the tuner to acquire all available program guide information. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. The controller does not acquire this information based upon the proximity to a channel tuned before the program guide



command, or upon the user inputting a “channel up/down command input.” As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of amended claim 19 and claim 20, and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose the microprocessor as determining “the order of priority of channels having the same *proximity according to a user's channel up/down command* input via the key input before corresponding channels are accessed” as recited in claim 21.

Claim 22 is deemed patentable due at least to the reasons supporting the patentability of claims 19, 20, and 21.

In rejecting claim 23, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the microprocessor as searching for “channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.” As similarly noted in the discussion on claims 20 and 21, Yuen discloses a controller as controlling the tuner to acquire all available program guide information. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. The controller does not acquire this information based upon the proximity upward or downward to a channel tuned before the program guide command. As such, in addition to the patentability of amended claim 19 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, claim 23 does not disclose the microprocessor as searching for “channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed” as recited in claim 23.

In rejecting claim 25, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the microprocessor providing “to the character signal generator a status message on a message screen in response to the program guide information of a corresponding channel not being stored.” In Yuen, the device detects and outputs an audio warning message to alert the user “to ignore the audio data tones caused by the encoded guide and guide data.” Col. 20, lines 46-54. This message is unrelated to the status of storing the program guide information, and is instead related to the fact that the program guide information is being acquired using the audio channels while the time the video clips are being received, which prevents the acquisition of the audio related to these video clips. Col. 20, lines 43-46. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of

amended claim 19 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose the microprocessor providing “to the character signal generator a *status message* on a message screen in response to the program guide information of a corresponding channel *not being stored*” as recited in claim 25.

Claim 26 is deemed patentable due at least to the arguments for the patentability of claim 1.

In rejecting claim 27, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing the acquiring step of claim 3 as comprising “the step of determining the sequence of accessing channels by proximity of the channels to the channel tuned and by a channel up/down command input just before a channel search is determined.” As noted in the discussion on claims 7, 8, 10, and 13, Yuen discloses acquiring all available program guide information. There is no disclosure or teaching the program guide information is acquired by determining the proximity of the channel to the channel tuned prior to execution of the program guide command, that the acquisition is influenced by an up/down command from the user, or even that the controller recognizes the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, in addition to the arguments for the patentability of claim 3 and contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose the acquiring step as comprising “the step of determining the sequence of accessing channels *by proximity* of the channels to the channel tuned and *by a channel up/down* command input just before a channel search is determined” as recited in claim 27.

In rejecting claim 28, the Examiner cited Yuen as disclosing an apparatus having both a “means for detecting program guide information corresponding to channels in relation to a tuned channel,” and a “means for searching for accessible channels of the channels based upon a command received, the program guide information, and a relation to the tuned channel.” As noted earlier in the discussion on amended claim 19 and claims 20-21, Yuen discloses a controller that detects, acquires, and stored all available program guide information either continuously or at preset times, but neither acquires the program guide information in relation to

a tuned channel, nor senses the tuned channel. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. As such, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Yuen does not disclose an apparatus having either a “means for detecting program guide information corresponding to channels *in relation to a tuned channel*,” and a “means for searching for accessible channels of the channels based upon a command received, the program guide information, and a *relation to the tuned channel*” as recited in claim 28.

Claim 29 is deemed patentable due at least to the arguments for the patentability of claim 28.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

In the Office Action at page 9, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yuen and it being commonly known to display a message to a user informing the user to wait. The Examiner cited Yuen as providing all of the other steps and structure. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Since the Examiner relied upon the method disclosed in Yuen to disclose the program guide method, and did not cite common knowledge as disclosing additional steps to the method disclosed in Yuen beyond the display of a message to the user informing the user to wait, claim 4 is deemed patentable due at least to the reasons for the patentability of claim 3.

In the Office Action at page 9, the Examiner rejected claims 11, 16-18, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yuen and Saitoh (U.S. Patent No. 5,444,499). The Examiner cited Saitoh as disclosing a controller that calculates a probability that channels are to be selected according to the number of times that the channels are tuned by the user, and searches the channels in an order of priority according to the probability that the user will tune to those channels. The Examiner cited Yuen as providing all of the other steps and structure. The Examiner cited the motivation to combine these technologies lies in that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide Yuen's program guide acquisition technology with

the controller taught in Saitoh in order to obtain the television guide without carrying on cumbersome tuning operations. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

As an initial matter, claims 11 and 16-18 are dependent on claim 3. As previously noted in the discussion on claim 3, the method disclosed in Yuen is not a “program guiding method in which a program list for channels is displayed in *response* to a program guide command” which includes the steps of acquiring and storing the program guide information as recited in claim 3, but is instead a program guiding method that only writes and displays a program list in response to a program guide command. Col. 21, lines 65-67 - Col. 22, lines 1-3. Since Saitoh does not disclose the acquisition or storage of program guide information in response to a program guide command, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, the combination of Yuen and Saitoh does not disclose a program guiding method in which a program list for channels is displayed in *response* to a program guide command” which includes the steps of acquiring and storing the program guide information as recited in claim 3, and necessarily included in dependent claims 11, and 16-18.

Similarly, claim 24 is dependent on amended claim 19. As noted earlier in the discussion on amended claim 19, Yuen does not disclose a microprocessor that controls the tuner to search, acquire, and store program guide information in response to a program guide command. Instead, Yuen discloses a controller that detects, acquires, and stored program guide information either continuously or at preset times, but not in response to the program guide command. Col. 21, lines 57-67 - Col. 22, line 1, FIG. 22b, Steps 911 & 914, Col. 22, lines 56-64. Since Saitoh does not disclose the acquisition, or storage of program guide information in response to a program guide command, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, the combination of Yuen and Saitoh does not disclose the microprocessor searching “for accessible channels *in response to the manipulation command input via the key input* by controlling the tuner in a background operation while a user refers to the program list” as recited in amended claim 19, and necessarily in dependent claim 24.

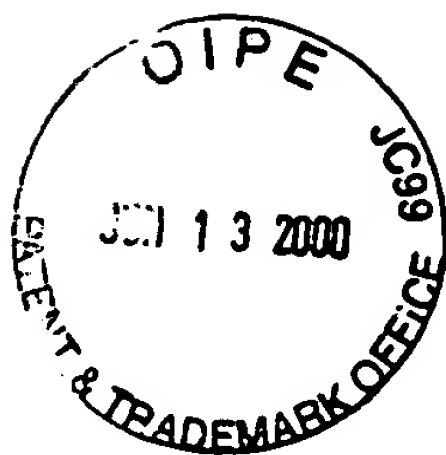
Further, the Examiner cited Saitoh as disclosing a method including “writing a probability distribution of tuned channels, wherein the channels are searched for in an order of priority according to a probability distribution of channels” as recited in claims 11, 16-18, and an apparatus which further comprises a “probability estimator, coupled to the microprocessor, calculating a probability that channels are to be selected, by accumulating a number of times which the channels are tuned, wherein the microprocessor searches for the channels in an order of priority according to a probability of tuning by the channels calculated by the probability estimator” as recited in claim 24. Saitoh discloses learning the favorite channels by monitoring the number of channels that are viewed by a viewer, and generating channel order priority data based upon this monitoring. Col. 5, lines 54-62. On activation of the television receiver, the channel having the highest priority within the channel order priority data is automatically displayed. Col. 6, lines 15-16 & lines 26-32. Thus, the channel order priority data is used to automatically tune in a channel when the tuner is activated such that “the viewer can watch their favorite program of a particular time merely by turning on the television receiver.” Col. 6, lines 30-32. There is no discussion that the channel order priority data is used in the search for program guide information, or that this channel order priority data is used to prioritize such a search. Instead, the channel order priority data determines what channel to display, not what program guide information to gather. Therefore, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Saitoh does not disclose a method including “writing a probability distribution of tuned channels, wherein *the channels are searched for in an order of priority according to a probability distribution of channels*” as recited in claims 11, 16-18, and an apparatus which further comprises a “probability estimator, coupled to the microprocessor, calculating a probability that channels are to be selected, by accumulating a number of times which the channels are tuned, wherein the microprocessor *searches for the channels in an order of priority according to a probability of tuning* by the channels calculated by the probability estimator” as recited in claim 24.

Lastly, the Examiner cited as a motivation to combine the program guide information storage and retrieval technology in Yuen with the viewer alert technology of Saitoh as being that one skilled in the art would want to obtain the television guide without carrying on cumbersome tuning operations. The Examiner did not disclose a source for this motivation. A review of the Yuen and Saitoh also fails to disclose why one skilled in the art would combine technology otherwise used to alert a viewer to watch a particular program to the acquisition and storage of program guide information. At best, Saitoh hints that program guide information is used when the device it discloses gives an audio warning alerting the viewer at a particular time that a specific show is being missed. Col. 5, lines 10-13. However, there is no discussion as to why this alert technology would be useful in the acquisition and storage of program guide information. As such, all that remains is the Examiner's unsupported assertion that such a combination was possible.

An unsubstantiated statement that existing elements could be combined as it was in the skill of the art to do so does not provide a basis for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Ex Parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d 1300, 1301 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). As such, in order to establish a prima facie case for obviousness, the rejection must detail the existence of the individual elements at the time of invention, that there was an existing motivation to combine these elements contained in the then existing art, and that this motivation is beyond an unsupported statement that the combination of these elements was within the skill of the art. In Re Fine, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988), cited with approval by, In re Jones, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992), Ex Parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d at 1301. In essence, there needs to be proof that such a motivation exists, not conjecture. In re Jones, 21 USPQ2d 1941. As there is no proof of a motivation to utilize the viewer alert system utilized in Saitoh to acquire and store the program guide information taught by Yuen, in addition to the above arguments for the patentability of claims 11, 16-18, and 24, it is respectfully submitted that there is insufficient evidence of a motivation to combine these references so as to support a prima facie argument for obviousness so as to support a rejection of claims 11, 16-18, and 24.



SERIAL NO.: 09/163,977



Docket No.: 1293.1053/MDS/JGM

**CONCLUSION:**

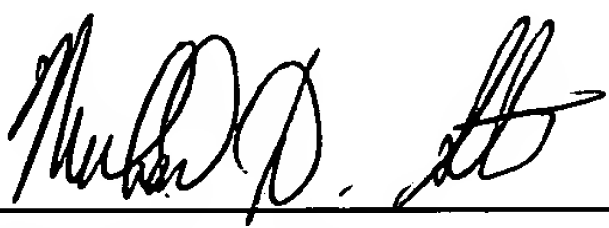
In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By:   
Michael D. Stein  
Registration No. 37,240

700 Eleventh Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

Date: 6/13/00